

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NO.162.

JULY, 1979.

Next Meeting.

The July meeting will be a talk given by Barry Fraser of the Marconi International Marine Company. The talk is entitled "Multistandard T.V. Receivers". These special sets are used on board ship and will operate on many different systems so that the crew can watch television programmes wherever the ship happens to be. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd July at Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Committee Meeting.

Wednesday July 11th, 7.30 p.m. Wheatsheaf.

V.H.F. Field Day 7th and 8th July.

A site has now been chosen and the stations will be located in a field next to 'Gibbs Farm' on Spring Elms Lane, Little Baddow. The grid reference is TL788075. Spring Elms Lane is about 1½ miles from Eve's Corner, fairly close to the General's Arms. Many hands are needed on Saturday to help put up the antennas and on Sunday to take them down again. The club intends to run stations on 144 MHz, 432 MHz and 1296 MHz. Operators are also needed to split the load. There will be a meeting at 7.00 p.m. before the club meeting and again during the tea break. Any offers of help should be made to Chris Lancaster, G8HDR or John Donnithorne, G8MKX. Chris can be contacted during the day on Chelmsford 61777 Ext.243 ; John is a bit more difficult (See small ads !).

Please come along and help to make the event a success.

Holiday at Hylands Park.

HF N.F.D. 1979 is over and some participants have, as is customary, vowed never to take part again - time is a great healer ! We suffered the usual problems, for example, the generator always expires in the early hours through sheer exhaustion. However, it is thought that a solution has been found to this one at last; G4DAN added extra piston rings by converting its "food" to home brew 2 stroke and it seems to like it.

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Of the many difficulties peculiar to this year the most significant was that concerned with Top Band. Our bowman, G3KPJ, required half a dozen attempts to provide a line over a tree for a halyard at one end of the aerial. This amazed the natives, alias squirrels, who promptly chewed through the halyard - this was its downfall. At this point we lost our presence of mind for the halyard was re-erected and we promptly found to our dismay that the long feeder for the aerial had been forgotten. Arrangements were made to obtain it later in the day.

You guessed, didn't you, when the TX was fired-up in the early hours it refused to draw current ! However, all was not lost, the on-site maintenance engineer set-to and attempted to repair it. This was to no avail, one of the country's premier semiconductor engineers was beaten before he started - it was an all valve job !

The moral is simple, if you are a fatalist you give-up at its first ill omen; if you are a realist you adopt the attitude of "if at first you don't succeed, give-up". We must have the unique distinction of being the only station that did not work Top Band with its generally easy pickings, plethora of /P stations and X2 multipliers.

Despite the problems, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; in all some 30 society members and camp followers attended the event.

It can be invidious to thank individuals for assistance. Those who provided services, hardware or consumables in kind know who they are and so do other Society members and perhaps this is recognition and recompense enough. However, in my opinion, two members deserve special mention - G8MDG, who valiantly performed as second operator for four hours (and incidentally missed lunch through his dedication) and G4DAN who provided transport for on and off site use.

Chief cook and bottle washer.

Direction Finding.

Last months hunt was won by Arthur Butcher who was well ahead of the field. Hidden station was G3VPK who was located on an island on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation in six-foot high nettles. The day was most enjoyable apart from about a half hour when the heavens opened. Willy has vowed never to do a D.F. again (not until next year, anyway). We were very pleased to see four teams from Colchester taking part - they outnumbered

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the locals by one !' Because of the Editor's haste in getting away to dry out, the full results are not yet available.

The July competition will take place on Sunday 22nd July beginning at 2.00 p.m. The start is as usual on Galleywood Common behind the Church at NGR 703029.

The Colchester Club organises D.F.hunts on Friday evenings starting at 7.30 p.m. at Fordham Heath NGR 945264. The map to use is either Sheet 168 (1:50000 Series) or Sheet 149 (1" Series). Further details from Ian Butson, G4HKC.

It is hoped to organise a combined hunt later in the year and to revise the rules for the Mid-Essex trophy, any suggestions to Bill Pechey, G4CUE.

Woburn Trip, August 5th.

Please pay your £1 deposits to John G8DET if you would like to go on the trip.

RTTY.

Please forgive this plug for the B.A.R.T.G. convention which is being held on July 21st at Harpenden Public Hall. There will be about a dozen trade stands, bring and buy, lectures, discussions etc. Talk in on 144 MHz. Further details from G4CUE. Doors open 11.00 a.m.

73,

Bill.

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Wanted.

John Donnithorne is looking for somewhere to live in the Chelmsford area, full board preferred. If you can help please contact him at the Club or via Newsletter Editor.